

2 No. 7
Withers-
Cholera -

Cholera Infantum.

Hab. J. Whiting
1808

an Account of the Cholera
Inflammation, as it appeared in
Fredericksburg Virginia, in
the summer of 1805.

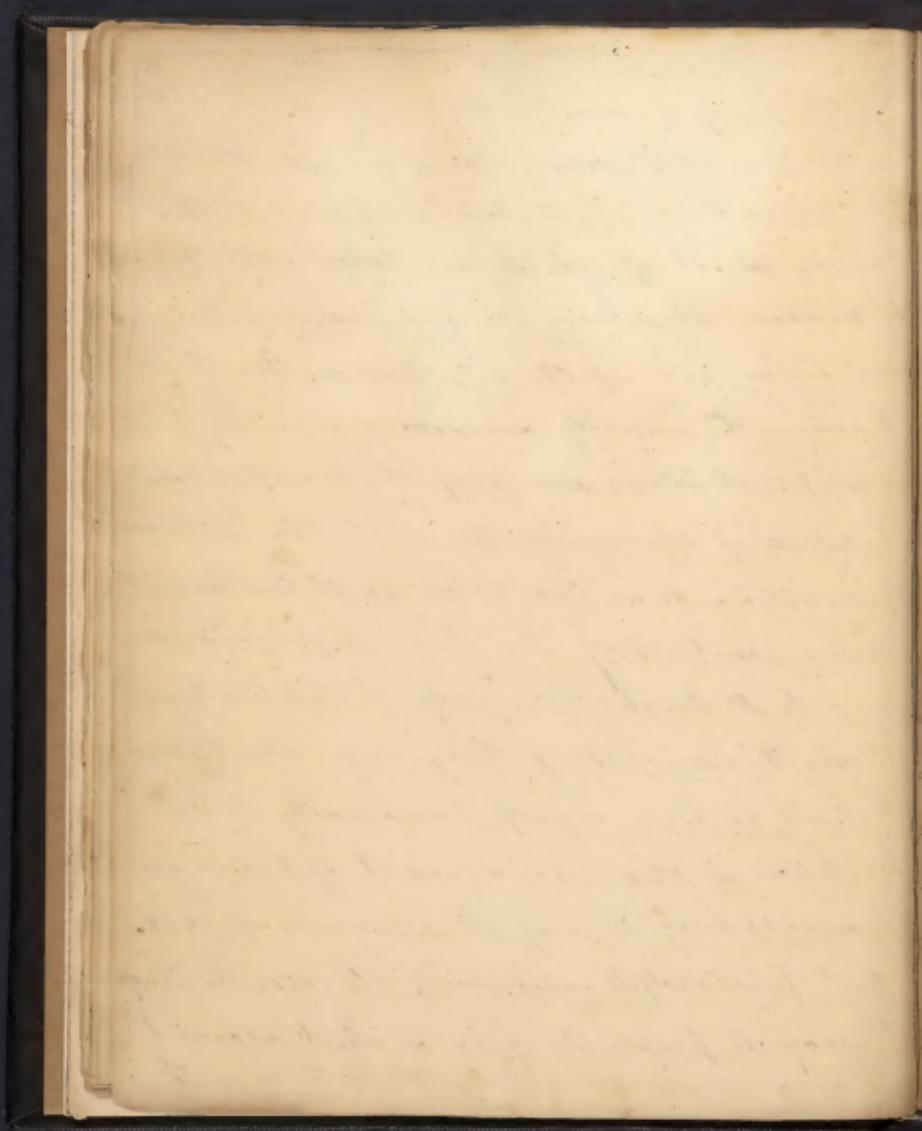
By Thomas Mathews
of Fauquier County,

Virginia

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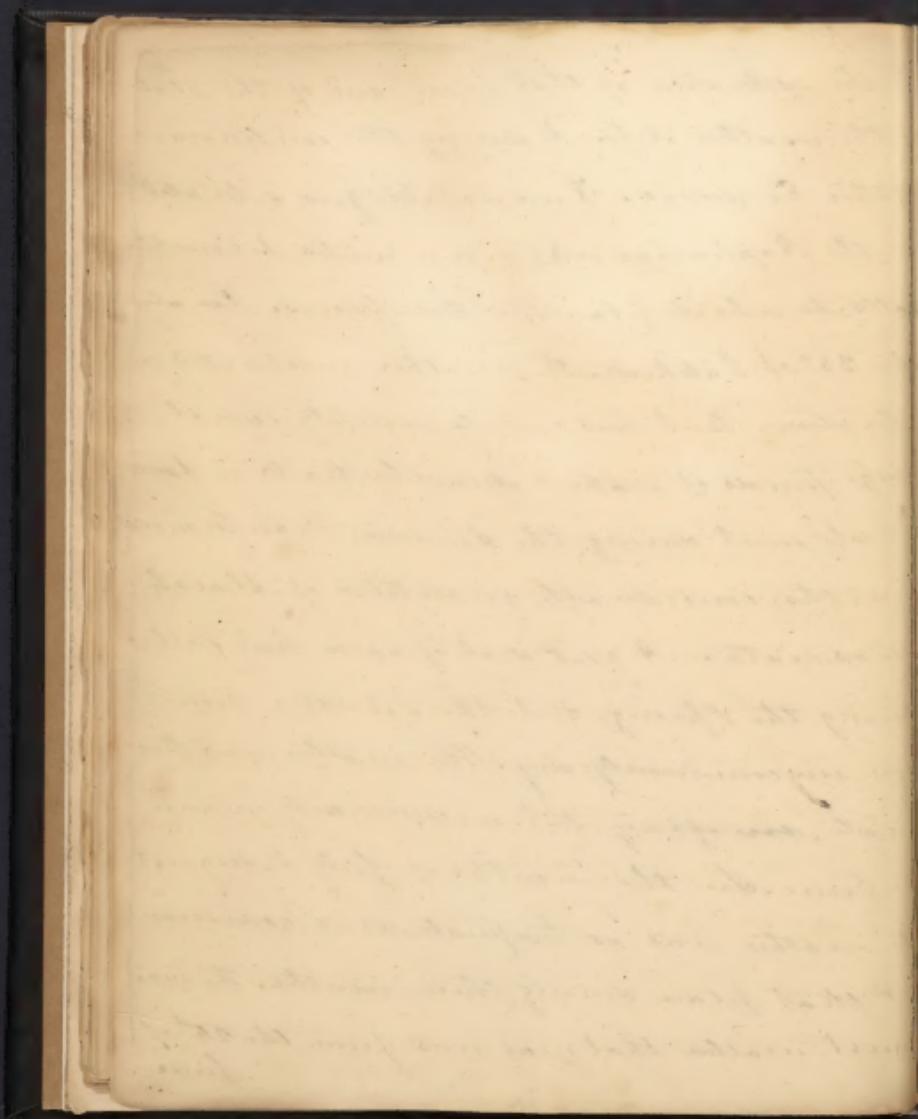
Of the many diseases, to which infants are subject,
there are few that receive more of our attention than
the Cholera Infantum; known by several other
names, most of which are taken either from
the season at which it appears, or from
some one or more of the symptoms. The time
at which it usually prevails occurs; differs
in different places according to the situations
& latitudes of them; together with the state of
the weather. As in Charleston South Carolina it
appears about May. In Philadelphia, accord-
ing to Dr Rush, from July to September.
And in Fredericksburg Virginia about June.
I shall confine myself principally, to a de-
scription of this disease, as it appeared in
Fredericksburg, during the summer of 1808.
But previous to describing the disease itself
it may be proper to give a short account

of



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of the situation of that place, and of the state
of the weather; before & during the continuance
of this Epidemic. Fredericksburg, is situated
on the Rappahannock; a few miles below the
falls, to which place the tide flows. In about
the 38° of Latitude. It is rather an elevated si-
tuation. But has in its vicinity several
large ponds of water & numerous tracts of land
which melt during the summer & continue
months, considerable quantities of Marsh
grass. A good deal of rain had fallen
during the Spring, but the summer months
were uncommonly dry. The weather was tem-
perate during day, but uncommonly warm
in June. In the months of July & August
the weather was as temperate, as is common
at that place during these months. The wet
nest weather that year was from the 26th of
June.

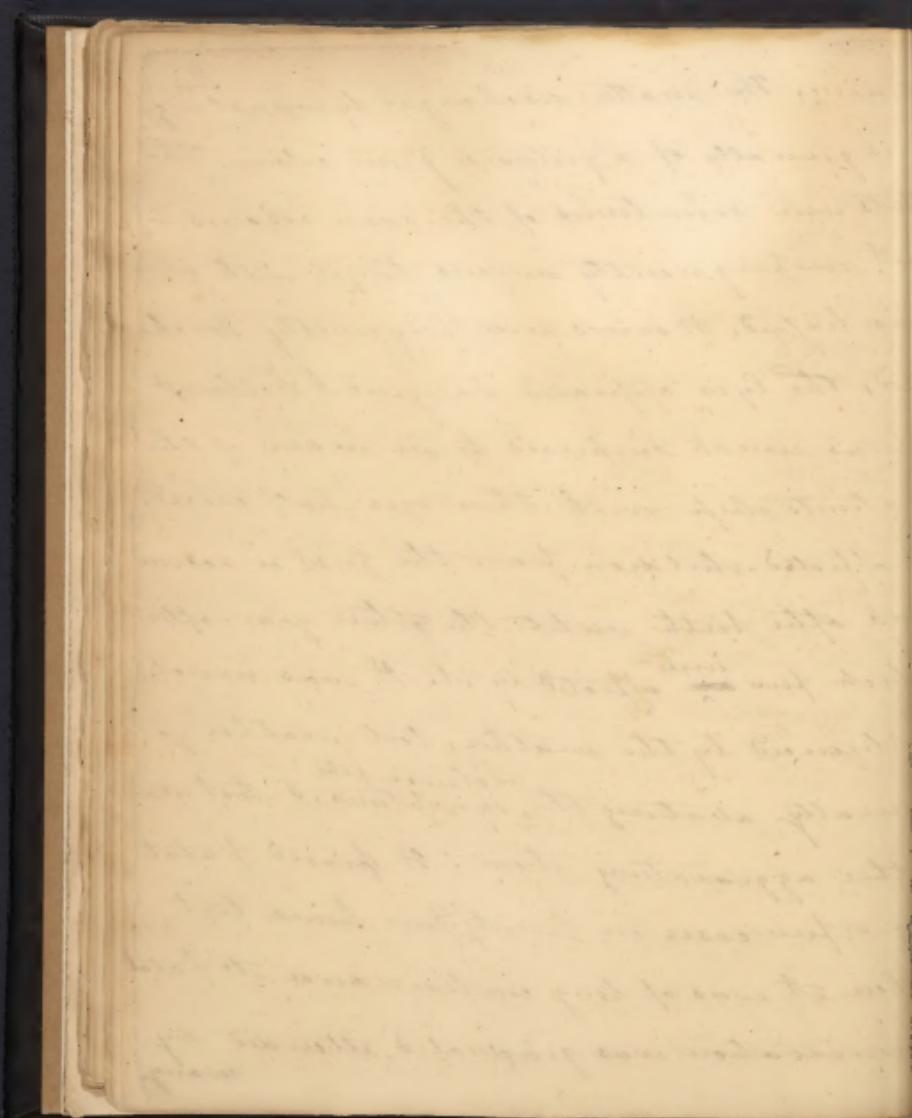


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June to the 3rd of July during which time, the
Mercury in the Thermometer ranged from
84° to 95° of Fahrenheit. The children of that
place had enjoyed very good health, until about
the middle of June; when the disease first
made its appearance in a family of Negro
children who lived near a pond of stagnated
water, from which place it spread to several
neighboring families & in a short time
became general. The disease came on some
times with a Diarrhoea, which continued some
days without much apparent indisposition
but fit more frequently came on with a
violent sucking & pinching, the pulse was
quick & frequent. The face was sometimes
swelled. The pain which accompanied it was
indistinctly of the intermitting kind; & the ex-
acerbations were discernible generally in the
evening.

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wearing, the matter discharged by vomiting,
was generally of a yellow, or green colour. the
stools were sometimes of the same colours, but
not infrequently mucus tinged with blood
was passed. Menses were frequently dischar-
ged, the eyes appeared languid & hollow, &
I was much surprised to see many of the
patients, sleep with their eyes half closed.
It affected children from the first or second
week after birth until the third year, after
which few ~~were~~ ^{were} affected by it. It was much
influenced by the weather, cool weather ge-
nerally abating the ^{violence & the} symptoms, & hot wea-
ther aggravating them. It proved fatal
in a few cases in twenty-four hours, but
when it was of long continuance, its fatal
termination was gradual & attended by
many



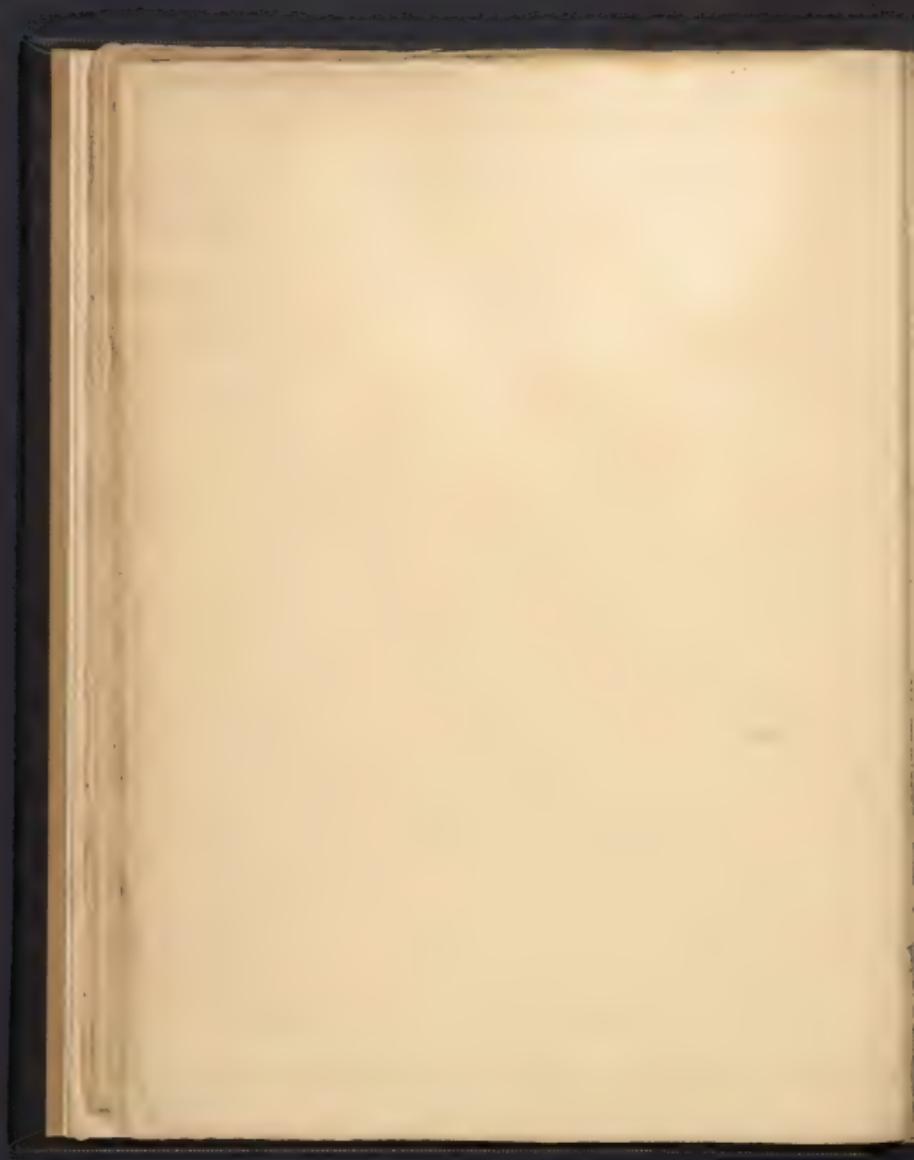
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many cases, in which the stems, & roots are greatly
enlarged & the leaves thickened & leathery
I do not see more than 15. I did not see a single case of
recoverable disease but in june last appeared

Many causes have been assigned to this
disease, the principle of ^{which} is well known.

Plumy fruits are said to be affected
but to write this I will only be compelled to
observe that this disease is very prevalent with
all the country, when there are greater pro-
portions of it & that it affects infants &
the youth who are liable to eat them.
It is supposed that the moderate use
of ripe fruits rather tends to prevent than
to cure this disease.

It has been attributed to worms, but to
this I object first we see the disease in
all its force before the time of which worms



most frequently into a disease 2^{d} It is
very improbable that they would produce
an animal disease 3^{d} that of old occasion-
ed by worms & the uncleaned manure is would
be proper for its cure but we find it most
sure the most powerful of them, & lastly
no worms are found in the intestines of those
who have died of a vapor affection.

III It has been attributed to distillation But I
doubt this being the cause from its occurring
in Infants before the time at which they are
all begin to eat both 3^{d} from its occurring
at stated times & being influenced by the
state of the weather, whereas distillation occurs
independently of the time or season of the
year

IV It has been attributed to uncleanliness
But this cannot be the cause as it affects
all



cases of tertian.

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✓ I recd. however & to be a manifestation of the Remitting Fever & tertian. I am desirous to add to this opinion from the following reasons. 1st From its being attended with those discharges & from the dimensions & Localizations of the fever, that accompanied it. 2nd From the time of its access, at which it occurs being nearly the same, as those at which the Remitting Fever appears in adults. In the month of August the family of the family of Stigges, in which I mentioned the disease as first appearing, were affected with the Remitting fever. In that family both diseases were more violent, than in any other; which I have attributed to their being in large towns of note, where I consider as being the remote cause of both diseases. 3rd

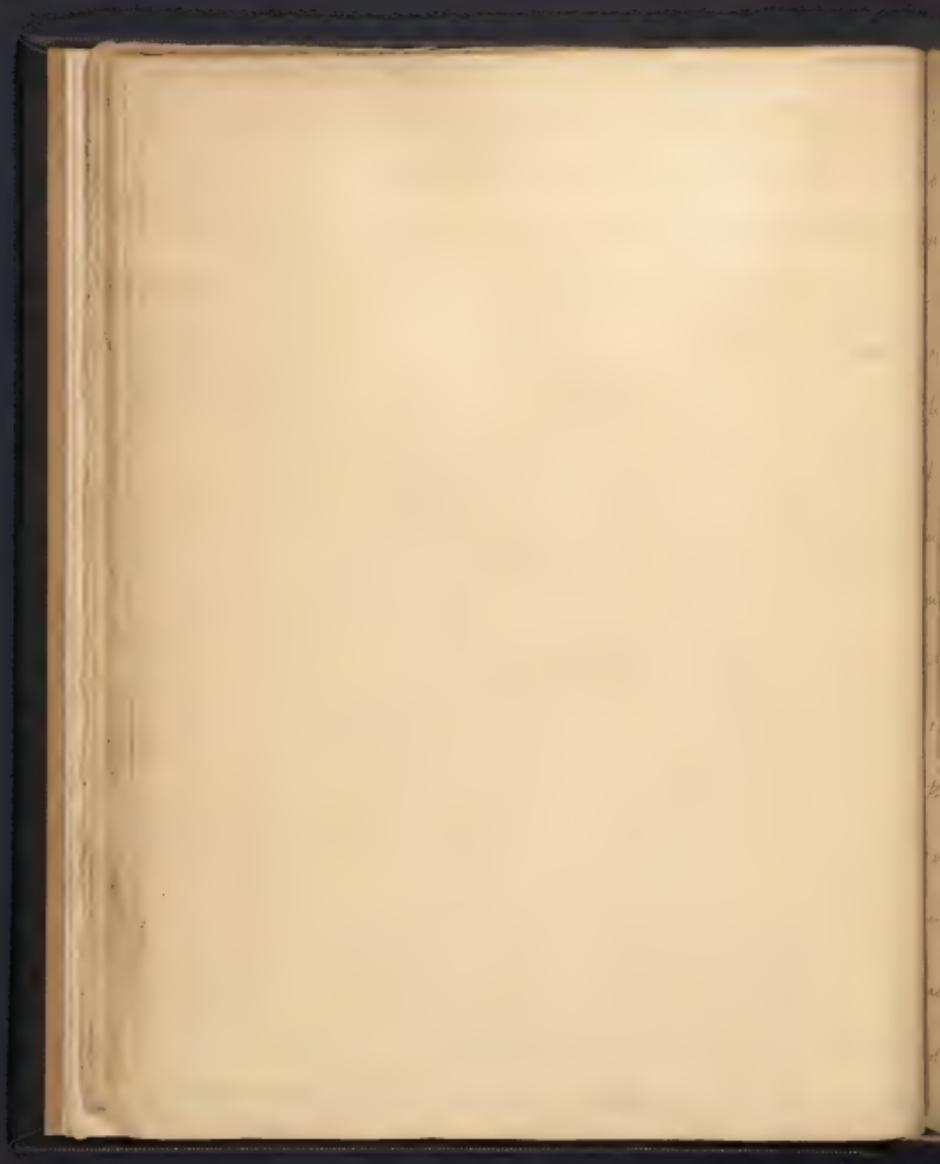
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L'Étang & Gush accounts very well for the attack
for its appearance earlier in children than in the
smoking men in adults. The hypothesis that
the constipation of children; are well established
from many to be caused by the same
causes that produce this disease.

I shall now mention the remedies that are
employed to cure this disease. The first in
order was to evacuate the bile from the blad-
der & rectum. For this purpose a dose of the
gallable emulsion was preferred. This in some
cases was repeated several times. In others a
strong emetic was given suddenly. The next
thing that was done was to purge the bowels
by means of some purgative medicine
such as Castor oil, Sanguinaria Calendula &
some cases where the disease had continued
for sometime & where it was subtended the

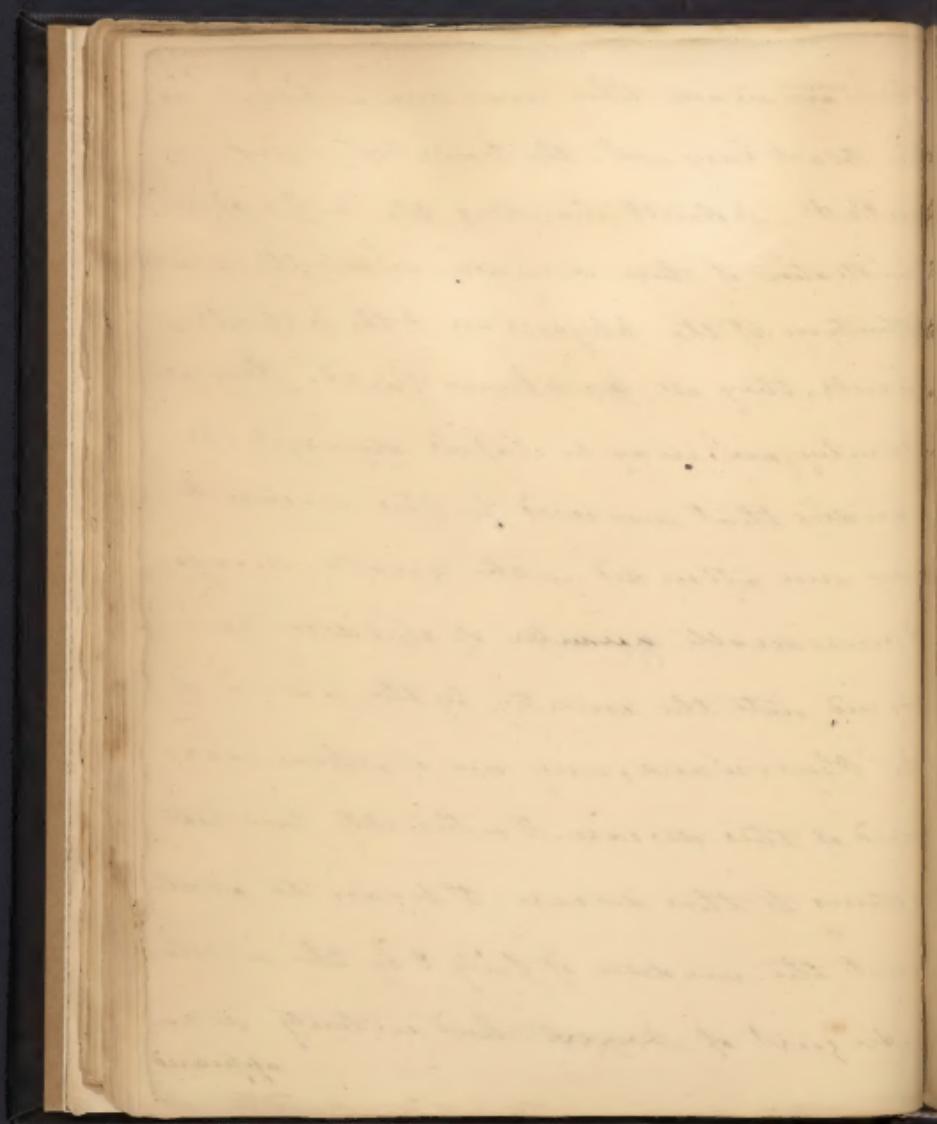
the following after had already been thrown
off, the remaining 2000 were laid aside
because it was said to Shakes, 1500 tea boxes
left, with a few boxes of dried tea was found
to suffice - during the plain which in
most cases was very considerable, Black
Tea was also used, but the con-
tinuation of Green, Calcutta & Ceylon as re-
commended by H. Miller & which however his
Master was generally inclined with these in
accordance with some others which I shall
mention the average, generally yielded in
one or two days. Different kinds of different
leaves were used such as, Yellow Tea, Green
Tea & C. but the delicate & fine may be said
as the best was the Shaks. Ceylon which
was in great abundance in the neigh-
borhood



down here at that place. I found full of the
Dark liquid in a sort of water under an
isolated mountain. The colour of the dark
is a decoction of the bark of the *slipper* tree
with a few stalks of *Lindernia* and *Passiflora*
affine and it covers the body. As soon
as the more violent convulsions of the disease
are removed from the body
the bark is washed off and decoction of bark
for the powder will soon be obtained as
the stomach was of much service. The
skin of *Calypso* with *Passiflora* was an
isolated *isolation*. I have not made
and *removal* as a *removal* of this
disease. It seldom being so violent as to
require it, with the exception of a few of
the first cases that made their appearance.



There were many other remedies employed as
the Black holly root, the Cows foot boiled in
milk &c. Notwithstanding the people ad-
ministration of these remedies, aided by the greatest
attention of the physician & the patients
friends, they all sometimes failed. Fresh
& Country air may be clasped amongst the
remedies that were used for this disease &
were used attended with greater success
A considerable number of children were
carried into the country by the advice of
the Physicians, many one of whom rec-
cured of this disease. Fortunately few fell
victims to this disease, it began to abate
about the middle of July & by the middle
of August had entirely dis-
appeared



- appeared, the weather was much more ¹¹
temperate, during the last of July & the
first of August; then it had been in June.
The Cholera Infatium, was followed by
the Remitting Bilious Fever, which was
much more malignant than on for
several years. — ^{on}

Cholera Infantum

By William J. S.
of Cuthbertson
Esq.

you have you add in the quantity
of salt you had the quantity
of flour add the water to the
flour well and mix it well add the
salt in then mix it well and then add
the eggs and mix it well